

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

BIB-01 /088 W

----- 095390

R 291500Z APR 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1482

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2361

E.O. 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: PARM NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: UK PAPER ON GUIDANCE TO AHG RE USE OF DATA

REF: A. MBFR VIENNA 513 DTG 131501Z DEC 74;

B. USNATO 4411 DTG 141720Z AUG74

1. UK REP AT APRIL 28 SPC MEETING CURCULATED A PAPER ON QUESTIONS WHICH THE UK BELIEVES THE ALLIANCE SHOULD RESOLVE TO ASSIST AHG IN DISCUSSING DATA WITH THE EAST IN THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. DISCUSSION AT THIS MEETING REPORTED SEPTTEL. IN THE TEX TRANSMITTED BELOW, DOCUMENT AGV(75)85 IS THE AHG DECEMBER 12 REPORT TO THE NAC (REF A), WHILE THE UK PAPER OF 12 AUGUST 1974 IS THE TEXT TRANSMITTED IN REF B.

2. BEGIN TEXT

MBFR: USE OF DATA

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1. THE FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS WHICH THE UK AUTHORITIES THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE ALLIANCE TO RESOLVE IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE AD HOC GROUP TO DISCUSS DATA WITH THE EAST IN THE FORTHCOMING ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. SOME OF THEM ARE QUESTIONS

WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT SPECIFICALLY TO COUNCIL BY THE AD HOC GROUP; OTHERS SEEM TO US TO ARISE NATURALLY FROM PRESENT NEGOTIATING REQUIREMENTS.

USE OF REVISED GROUND FORCE MANPOWER TOTALS

(AD HOC GROUP REPORT AGV(75)85 PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 8)

2. THERE IS IN OUR VIEW NO REASON ON SECURITY GROUNDS NOT TO TELL THE WARSAW PACT THAT OUR ESTIMATES HAVE BEEN REVISED. BUT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT GIVE THE WARSAW PACT THE LATEST NATO ESTIMATES OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCE STRENGTHS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE EAST DISCLOSE THEIR OWN ESTIMATES. IT SHOULD THEN BE LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE AD HOC GROUP TO DECIDE WHAT USE SHOULD BE MADE OF THE NATO ESTIMATES. TO PREPARE FOR SUCH EVENTUAL USE THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD BE EQUIPPED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH THE MOST UP TO DATE AGGREGATE MANPOWER TOTALS AND OVERALL TANK FIGURES, AND POSSIBLE WITH NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS (SEE PARAGRAPH 3 BELOW).

COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BREAKDOWNS OF REVISED GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER TOTALS

(AGV(75)85 PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 6)

3. THE UK VIEW REMAINS AS IN THE PAPER ON USE OF DATA CIRCULATED IN THE SPC ON 12 AUGUST 1974, VIZ: WE BELIEVE THAT WHEN A SERIOUS EAST-WEST DISCUSSION OF DATA GETS UNDER WAY ALLIED NEGOTIATORS WILL BE OBLIGED TO GIVE A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY BREAKDOWN OF THE ALLIANCE'S GROUND FORCE TOTALS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A DISCUSSION ON ANY OTHER BASIS - EG ON AN OVERALL FUNCTIONAL BASIS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES' FORCE HOLDINGS - WOULD BE FEASIBLE. WE RECOGNISE HOWEVER THAT THERE ARE POLITICAL DISADVANTAGES, THOUGH NOT IN OUR VIEW SERIOUS ONES, IN THIS: WARSAW PACT NEGOTIATORS MAY INTERPRET IS AS IMPLYING ALLIED ACCEPTANCE OF THE THESIS THAT REDUCTIONS WILL BE NEGOTIATED ON A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY BASIS AND OF NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS. ALLIED NEGOTIATORS WILL NEED CLEARLY TO REBUT ANY SUCH INTERPRETATION.

WE BELIEVE THAT A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY BREAKDOWN SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFERED BY ALLIED NEGOTIATORS IN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH IT IS CLEAR THAT THEIR WARSAW PACT COLLEAGUES AND PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN A SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF DATA AND TO PROVIDE EQUALLY DETAILED FIGURES OF THEIR OWN.

USE OF DATA IN DISCUSSION OF REDEFINITIONS

4. SINCE IT IS APPARENTLY THE INTENTION OF THE WARSAW PACT TO BEGIN THE DATA DISCUSSION BY RAISING THE DEFINITION QUESTION, THERE MAY BE A REQUIREMENT TO EXCHANGE DATA ON AREA DEFENCE AND HELICOPTER UNITS. OUR VIEW REMAINS, AS STATED IN THE UK PAPER OF 12 AUGUST 1974, THAT THE PROVISION OF ALLIED ESTIMATES SHOULD DEPEND ON THE SERIOUSNESS OR OTHERWISE OF WARSAW PACT INTEREST IN THE ALLIED OFFER TO REDEFINE GROUND FORCES.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF WARSAW PACT NEGOTIATORS WERE TO ASK FOR THE ALLIES' ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBERS INVOLVED IN ANY ONE METHOD OF REDEFINITION, ALLIED NEGOTIATORS MIGHT QUOTE A FIGURE FOR ANY NATO UNITS CONCERNED AND INVITE THE WARSAW PACT REPRESENTATIVES TO SAY WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IN NUMERICAL TERMS ON THE WARSAW PACT FORCE LEVEL.

USE OF MORE DETAILED DATA

5. THERE MAY BE A REQUIREMENT FOR MORE DETAILED EXCHANGE OF DATA IF THE EAST STRONGLY CHALLENGE OVERALL ALLIED ESTIMATES (FOR EXAMPLE, THE EAST MIGHT CHALLENGE WESTERN ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF TANKS IN A SOVIET TANK DIVISION). IN ORDER TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY ALLIED NEGOTIATORS MIGHT FEEL THE NEED TO GIVE MORE DETAILS OF WESTERN CALCULATIONS (EG MANPOWER TOTALS FOR NATIONAL FORMATIONS AND/OR ESTIMATES OF OVERALL OR NATIONAL TOTALS FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENTS SUCH AS TANKS, SSM'S OR HELICOPTERS). AT PRESENT ALLIED FIGURES AT THIS LEVEL OF DETAIL ARE SUBJECT TO A VERY HIGH SECURITY CLASSIFICATION. IT WILL THEREFORE BE ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT THE USE OF ANY SUCH DATA BY ALLIED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD BE CLEARED IN ADVANCE BY THE APPROPRIATE MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN THE ALLIANCE. END TEXT
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO02361
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS-1
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197504101/abbrzjqt.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. MBFR VIENNA 513 DTG 131501Z DEC 74; B. USNATO 4411 DTG 141720Z AUG74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: UK PAPER ON GUIDANCE TO AHG RE USE OF DATA
TAGS: PARM NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO MBFR VIENNA
BONN
LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006